

New Hampshire State Plan for Equitable Access to Excellent Educators Task Force

Meeting Minutes ~ December 15, 2015

Meeting Attendees:

Ashley Frame	NH Department of Education, Title II-A
Aaron Hughes	NH Department of Education, Title III
Lucy Canotas	Teacher, Manchester
Irv Richardson	NEA-NH
Ethel Gaides	SAU 48 Asst. Superintendent
Jennifer Cunha	Parent Information Center
Deborah Fleurant	NH Department of Education, Title I
Judy McGann	SAU 68 Superintendent of Schools
Mark Landry	Teacher, SAU 6 Claremont
Mary Lane	NH Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education
Irene Koffink	NH Department of Education, Bureau of Data Management
Karen Soule	Lead for Educator Effectiveness, NH Department of Education
Susan Frankel	Northeast Comprehensive Center (NECC)
Andrea Reade	Northeast Comprehensive Center (NECC)
Ginny Clifford	NH Department of Education, Bureau of Credentialing
Natalie Paquet	WestEd
Tessa McDonnell	Spark-NH
Mary Ford	Granite State College
Marybeth Mattingly	Carsey School of Public Policy

Meeting Purpose

To bring together a diverse group of stakeholders and internal Department staff to serve as a task force that will examine the current equity issues in New Hampshire schools as part of the process to develop an Equitable Access to Excellent Educators Plan by June 1, 2015; and, to serve in an ongoing capacity to periodically review the implementation and levels of success of strategies within the plan.

Welcome to Stakeholder Members and Introduction of New Members

The meeting started with a welcome to members and introductions by Karen Soule.

Update on New Hampshire Ensuring Equitable Access Plan – Manchester Outreach

Karen Soule provided an update (PowerPoint presentation attached) on the Ensuring Equitable Access to Excellent Educators Plan. Karen stated that it is important for Superintendents to understand the plan.

Discussion took place on the *Core Principles for Equality of Opportunities* and the talking points for *Ensuring Equitable Access to Excellent Educators for All Students*. Karen went through the talking points in detail; the talking points truly revolve around talent development. **An answer has not yet been provided re: the inquiry of possible teacher-leader certification.

The Core Principles for Equality of Opportunities - All students deserve an equal educational opportunity, including equal access to excellent educators; educators deserve the support they need to succeed; and, excellent educators are those fully able to engage and inspire students to graduate from high school and be college and career ready.

Manchester Outreach

Andrea Reade and NHDOE representatives continue to work with the Manchester School District. So far, there have been three meetings with Manchester and the plan is to meet again the first of the year.

Report on Initial Communication/Outreach Plan – FAQs Activity

Handout: FAQs for Ensuring Equitable Access – initial communication

FAQS Activity

Group activity: Three (3) groups were formed. Andrea Reade asked each group to review and edit, if necessary, the questions listed within the FAQs handout - do these questions provide a clear description of the Ensuring Equitable Access Plan? What questions are most important to communicate to Superintendents, school community and the public?

Each group reported out on their suggested edits and/or additions to the list of questions. In the near future, the internal NHDOE Planning Team will meet to review and consolidate the work of each group into one FAQs document.

Getting to Know Additional Potential Strategies/Supports

The Carsey School of Public Policy at the University of New Hampshire

Beth Mattingly provided a broad overview of the [Carsey School of Public Policy at the University of New Hampshire](#) is nationally recognized for its research, policy education, and engagement. The school examines pressing issues striving for equitable solutions to improve conditions in communities across the United States and nationally.

Contact Information:

Marybeth J. Mattingly, PhD

Director of Research on Vulnerable Families

Research Assistant Professor of Sociology

The Carsey School of Public Policy

University of New Hampshire

Huddleston Hall, 73 Main Street

Durham, NH 03824-3563

O: 603-862-2961; M: 240-593-4297

Email: beth.mattingly@unh.edu

Spark-NH

Tessa McDonnell provided an overview of Spark-NH. Spark-NH is the Governor-appointed Early Childhood Advisory Council for the State of New Hampshire.

Handout: *A Framework for Action for New Hampshire's Young Children.*

Vision: All New Hampshire children and their families are healthy, learning and thriving now and in the future.

Mission: Spark-NH provides leadership that promotes a comprehensive, coordinated, sustainable early childhood system that achieves positive outcomes for young children and families, investing in a solid future for the Granite State.

Tess is the Co-Chair of the Spark-NH Workforce and Professional Development Committee. The committee charge is to develop recommendations and implementation plans to enhance NH's capacity for the recruitment, retention, advancement and support of qualified professionals across early childhood programs via education/training and credentialing.

Handout: *New Hampshire's Early Childhood Professional Development System.*

The vision of the Early Childhood Professional Development System is to support all early childhood professionals to be well educated, highly skilled and culturally competent. The Early Childhood Professional Development System offers career pathways with high quality lifelong learning opportunities.

Is the NH Early Childhood Professional Development System a way to communicate to local school districts? How can we collaborate?

Ideas:

- Tap into School Counselors/Guidance Counselors? School Psychologists/Social Workers? Karen mentioned that Mariane Gfroerer, NHDOE Office of Counseling & Psychology may be a good person to ask.
- Tap into the State Nurse's Group?

Contact Information:

Tessa McDonnell, Spark-NH

Email: tessamcd@comcast.net

Spark-NH web site: <http://sparknh.com/>

Workforce and Professional Development System pages which includes a link to the Shared Core Competencies: <http://sparknh.com/workforce-and-professional-development>

Parent Information Center

Jennifer Cunha provided an overview of the Parent Information Center (PIC) and NH Connections. The Parent Information Center is a statewide family organization that strives to achieve positive outcomes for children and youth, with a focus on those with disabilities and special healthcare needs. This is achieved through its partnerships with families, educators, youth, professionals and organizations.

Jennifer is the NH Connections Project Director, a grant program offered by PIC. NH Connections believes that family-school partnerships make the difference in special education. NH Connections is funded by the NHDOE, Bureau of Special Education to build the dual-capacity of families of children with disabilities and school staff to work together in partnership.

NH Connections can:

- Facilitate the development of an action plan for improving family-school partnerships in special education and on-going support for implementation
- Provide resources, tools and best practice strategies for improving family-school partnerships in special education
- Provide a variety of professional development training including:
 - Understanding and using data from the Parent Involvement Survey in Special Education (Indicator 8)
 - Parent Leadership Training
 - The Dual-Capacity Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships
 - Professional Development on Partnership Development

Contact Information

Jennifer Cunha, Project Director

Parent Information Center – NH Connections

54 Old Suncook Road

Concord, NH 03301

603.224.7005, ext 115 / 800.947.7005

www.picnh.org

www.nhconnections.org

Title I/Innovation Schools and Family and Community Engagement

Richard Feistman was not able to attend the Task Force meeting. A handout was given out that provided an overview of Richard's work within the NHDOE. He helps to improve family-school partnerships in school districts, facilitates research-based needs assessment of family and community engagement practices, and provides assistance in any Title I or Family and Community Engagement activities.

Contact Information:

Richard Feistman, Ph.D.

New Hampshire Department of Education

Bureau of Integrated Programs - Coordinator of Family and Community Engagement

Seacoast Region Title I Consultant and Technical Assistance Provider for Innovative Schools

Family Engagement Tool: <http://schoolcommunitynetwork.org/FET.aspx>

Email: Richard.Feistman@doe.nh.gov

Tel. 271-8315

WestEd and Regional Educational Laboratory Northeast & Islands (REL-NEI)

Natalie Paquet from WestEd was introduced to the group. Natalie provides research-based support, will assist the Task Force with what data is needed and with how to assess progress within school districts.

WestEd provides learning opportunities, consulting and technical assistance, works with education and other communities throughout the United States and abroad to improve education and other outcomes for children, youth and adults. WestEd focuses on creating positive, innovative and sustainable improvement in education and human development.

The **Regional Educational Laboratory Northeast & Islands (REL-NEI)** is part of the Regional Educational Laboratory Program. REL-NEI is administered by Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC), in close partnership with American Institutes of Research (AIR) and Learning Innovations (LI) at WestEd.

REL-NEI serves the six New England states, New York, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. REL-NEI helps preK-16 educators at the state, district and school levels increase their use of scientifically based evidence to make decisions that lead to improved student achievement and reduce performance gaps among student groups.

Wrap Up and Next Steps

At the Superintendents' meeting on January 22, 2016, Karen Soule will be presenting on taking the next steps with the Ensuring Equitable Access Plan.

Irv Richardson asked if contact information for the Task Force members could be sent out to the group.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

3:30 – 5:30 PM

New Hampshire Department of Education